

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-24 (canceled).

25(new). A method of compressing a digital image having a plurality of pixels, each represented by a sequence of ordered symbols, said method comprising:

(a) organizing a plurality of said symbols into a bit plane, each said symbol in said bit plane occupying the same position in a respective sequence of ordered symbols for a pixel; and

(b) compressing said image by compressing said bit plane.

26. The method of claim 25 where said bit plane is compressed using a lossless compression algorithm.

27. The method of claim 26 where said algorithm is a Huffman encoding scheme.

28. The method of claim 26 where said algorithm is a run length encoding scheme.

29. The method of claim 25 where compression of said bit plane reduces the number of symbols in said bit plane.